

CLAIMS

We claim:

1. A method for testing an application program, comprising the steps of:
 - capturing input data entered into a primary test computer testing an application program;
 - sending the input data from the primary test computer to a secondary test computer also testing the application program;
 - receiving the input data by the secondary test computer;
 - executing the application program by the secondary test computer responsive to the input data;
 - when an exception condition occurs while executing the application program by the secondary computer, reporting the exception condition to the primary test computer; and
 - displaying the exception condition by the primary test computer.

1 2. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of logging the input data by the primary
2 test computer.

1 3. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of mapping the input data to a format
2 compatible with the secondary test computer, wherein the step of mapping is performed by the
3 secondary test computer.

4. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of logging the exception condition,
wherein the step of logging is performed by the primary test computer.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein the input data is entered using a keyboard.

1 6. The method of claim 1, wherein the input data is entered using a computer mouse.

1 7. The method of claim 1, wherein the primary test computer sends the input data to the
2 secondary test computer over the Internet, and the secondary test computer reports the exception
3 condition to the primary test computer over the Internet.

1 8. The method of claim 1, wherein the primary test computer sends the input data to the
2 secondary test computer over an Intranet, and the secondary test computer reports the exception
3 condition to the primary test computer over the Intranet.

1 9. The method of claim 1, wherein the primary test computer sends the input data to the
2 secondary test computer using TCP/IP communication protocol, and the secondary test computer
3 reports the exception condition to the primary test computer using TCP/IP communication
4 protocol.

1 10. Programmable media containing programmable software for a primary test program that
2 tests an application program, the programmable media containing programmable software
3 comprising the steps of:

4 capturing input data entered into a primary test computer testing an application program;
5 sending the input data from the primary test computer to a secondary test computer also
6 testing the application program; and

7 receiving a report sent to the primary test computer by the secondary test computer of an
8 exception condition that occurs during execution of the application program by the secondary test
9 computer responsive to the input data.

10 11. The programmable media containing programmable software of claim 10, further comprising
11 the step of displaying the exception condition by the primary test computer.

1 12. The programmable media containing programmable software of claim 10, wherein the step
2 of sending the input data to a secondary test computer includes the step of transmitting the input
3 data from the primary test computer to the secondary test computer over the Internet.

1 13. The programmable media containing programmable software of claim 10, wherein the step
2 of sending the input data to a secondary test computer includes the step of transmitting the input
3 data from the primary test computer to the secondary test computer over an Intranet.

1 14. Programmable media containing programmable software for a secondary test program that
2 tests an application program, the programmable media containing programmable software
3 comprising the steps of:

4 receiving input data sent by a primary test computer testing an application program,
5 wherein the step of receiving is performed by a secondary test computer also testing the
6 application program;

7 mapping the input data to a form compatible with the secondary test computer, thereby
8 providing mapped input data, wherein the step of mapping is performed by the secondary test
9 computer; and

10 when an exception condition occurs while executing the application program by the
11 secondary test computer responsive to the mapped input data, reporting the exception condition
12 to the primary test computer.

